

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

REGISTRAR-GENERAL OF BIRTHS, DEATHS,
AND MARRIAGES.

1878.

ADELAIDE:

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1879.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 17th March, 1879.
HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following report from the Registrar-General of Births, &c., for general information.

WILLIAM MORGAN, Chief Secretary.

General Register of Births, &c., Office,
Adelaide, 10th March, 1879.

Sir—I have the honor to forward Report of Births, Deaths, and Marriages for the year ended 31st December, 1878.

The registered births numbered 9,282 (males, 4,801; females, 4,481); deaths, 3,749 (males, 2,081; females, 1,668); and marriages, 2,299.

The excess of births over deaths is 5,533.

BIRTHS.

The number of births, 9,282, is the largest recorded in any one previous year, and exceeds that of the highest, which was registered in 1877, by 642.

The annual birth-rate per 1,000 of the population is 38·22

The birth-rate is below that of four years out of ten of the immediately preceding, and is also below the ten years' average, which is 38·37.

In the districts Adelaide shows an increase of 259; Clare, 171; Frome, 88; Port Adelaide, 62; Gilbert, 37; Hindmarsh, 38; Nairne, 19; Angaston, 14. The births in the City of Adelaide number 1,295, showing an increase of 110 above those of 1877. In ten of the districts a decrease appears.

Sex.—The disparity in the sexes is great beyond precedent, the males being 320 in excess of the females. The proportion of births of males to every 100 females is 107·1. In 1874 the excess of males was 130, the proportion to 100 females being 103·4; in 1875 the excess was 140, the proportion, 103·8; in 1876 the excess was 44, the proportion 1·0; in 1877 the excess was 123, and the proportion 102·8. In the District of Adelaide, where appear the highest numbers, the males exceed the females by 112, and the rate is 108·7. Such is of unusual occurrence in this registration district. In three out of the preceding five years the number of the births of females is above that of males, and in two years the males were most numerous to the extent only of 30 and 29. This disparity is seen in the district in the third quarter of the year, when it reached 66. For the first, second, and fourth quarters the numbers in excess were 15, 18, and 13 respectively. In the District of Daly a similar disproportion is seen, the excess of the births of males above females being 81. In this district, as in that of Adelaide, the males exceed in the third quarter. In the City of Adelaide there were born 113 males to 100 females.

In the first quarter of the year the births amounted to 2,230, or 24·1 per cent. of the whole number registered; in the second to 2,369, or 25·5 per cent.; in the third to 2,460, or 26·5 per cent.; and in the fourth to 2,223, or 23·9 per cent. As in 1877, the September and June quarters reckon the highest.

The excess of births over deaths in the quarter ended 31st March was 1,142; 30th June, 1,368; 30th September, 1,869; 31st December, 1,334. The excess in the September quarter, which is the highest in the two years, is less by 92 in the present year than in 1877. In the March quarter there is an increase to the extent of 194 in the present year. In each of the five months, March, May, July, August, and October, the registered births were above 800, the largest

number in any one month being 883. In December the births had lessened to 688, the lowest in the year.

DEATHS.

The deaths throughout the province numbered 3,749. This number has been exceeded but once in the ten years from 1863, namely, in 1875, when they amounted to 4,136.

The death-rate per 1,000 of the population is 15·44. This, though higher than that of 1877, which is 14·00, is considerably under that of 1874, 1875, and 1876, which were respectively rated at 17·28, 20·03, and 16·38. The present death-rate is slightly above the average of the last ten years, which is 15·17. According to the last annual report, that for 1876, received from the Registrar-General, the mortality for England was at the rate of 21·0 per 1,000 of the population, which, it is stated, is the lowest death-rate during the last twenty years. In this province the highest death-rate during the last ten years is 20·03.

Sex.—The deaths of males were 2,081; of females, 1,668; an excess of the former above those of the latter of 413. The death-rate of males to 1,000 of the male population is 16·42; the death-rate of females to 1,000 of the female population, 14·38. (In England "the mortality of males was 22·5 per 1,000 of the male population; the mortality of females at the rate of 19·7 per 1,000 females living.")

Age.—The different ages, and the rate per cent. of the whole number registered, are thus notified:—

Under 1 year of age, 1,466; rate per cent., 39·1	
1 and under 5 413	" 11·0
5 " 10 131	" 3·5
10 " 30 485	" 12·9
30 " 50 530	" 14·2
50 and above 722	" 19·3
Not stated 2	

The proportion of deaths of infants under one year of age to 1,000 births is 157. In 1877 it did not reach beyond 140. In England, in the year 1875, the proportion is given as 158; in 1876, as 146.

Seasons.—The deaths in the first quarter are recorded as 1,088; in the second, 1,001; in the third, 771; in the fourth, 889. In accordance with the decennial return which, with but two exceptions, ascribes to the third quarter the least number of deaths, the present year gives the like result. The deaths in this period, compared with the March quarter, which has the greatest number in the year, are 317 less. The greatest mortality in any one month is found in March, the deaths being 413; the least in July, the deaths numbering 241.

In the City of Adelaide the greatest mortality is in January 120 deaths; the least, in July 61 deaths. The following record gives the whole number of deaths in each month, the deaths of infants under one year of age, together with the temperature furnished from the Adelaide Observatory:—

Month.	Total.	Under One		Temperature.		
		Year.		Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.
January	120	33	..	113·5	52·0	78·0
February ..	61	27	..	98·3	54·8	73·4
March	109	48	..	103·3	51·4	71·10
April	90	26	..	89·4	49·0	64·9
May	66	9	..	72·5	43·7	57·3
June	60	7	..	60·6	36·0	49·9
July	61	13	..	69·6	36·0	53·1
August	62	14	..	79·2	38·8	55·3
September ..	76	19	..	80·8	37·8	57·8
October	65	15	..	89·6	42·0	63·5
November ..	77	34	..	105·5	46·0	68·2
December ..	82	33	..	104·1	48·2	70·5

In the first quarter, with the mean temperature varying from 71.10 to 78.0, the greatest number of deaths occur, 290, of which 108 are those of infants under one year.

The next in succession is the fourth quarter, with the mean temperature from 63.5 to 70.5, the whole number of deaths being 224; of infants 82.

In the second quarter, with the mean temperature from 49.9 to 64.9, the deaths are 222, 42 being those of infants.

In the third quarter, the mean temperature being from 53.1 to 57.8, the deaths altogether are 199; of infants, 46.

From the highest number of deaths in the March quarter to the lowest in the September quarter there is a difference of 91.

If the number of deaths in the divisions of the year be considered, with the deaths of infants under one year of age deducted from the whole, the natural quarters from first to last show 182, 189, 153, and 182. If infant mortality be separately taken into account, the higher numbers appear in the first and fourth quarters; the lower in the second and third; which last so closely approximate as to be almost identical. Under one year of age the difference in the number of deaths between the highest and lowest is 64; above one year, 40. In single months, November, with the highest temperature at 105.5, the lowest at 46.0, and mean at 68.2, and December, with the highest at 104.1, lowest at 48.2, and mean 70.5, the deaths are 77 and 82 respectively; while in March, with the highest temperature at 103.3, lowest 51.4, and mean 71, the deaths are 109; which show an excess of 27 above those of December, and of 32 above those of November. In these last months the highest, the lowest, and the mean do not greatly diverge. March, holding place at the conclusion of the hot season, with a comparatively low temperature, has a greater mortality than November and December, which succeed the cold season, though the highest temperature in both these months is above that of March, and the lowest and the mean not greatly diverse.

Causes of Death.—In the classes the deaths are from—

	Total.	Male.	Female.	Proportion per cent.
Zymotic diseases	871	461	411	23.36
Constitutional diseases	485	240	245	13.02
Local diseases, ...	1,396	801	595	37.42
Developmental diseases	757	384	373	20.30
Violent deaths	220	181	39	5.90

The difference in the present year from the last is, that the number of deaths from zymotic diseases and from constitutional diseases is slightly higher in the proportional rate, the former being, in 1877, 22.63, the latter 12.93. Deaths from local diseases are nearly one and a half per cent. less. Developmental diseases closely approximate. Violent deaths are increased by .74.

Miasmatic Diseases.—There has been no prevalent epidemic during the year. There were 28 deaths from scarlatina, and 87 from whooping-cough, an increase in the last of 52 above those of 1877. The increase under typhoid fevers is 26; diphtheria, 46. The greatest mortality in this division of diseases resulted from diarrhoea, 289. This cause finds its place second, as to its fatal effects, both in the return showing the number of deaths arranged in the order of fatality for the present year, and in that for the ten preceding years. In 1878, of the whole number registered, 242 deaths were those of infants under one year of age. These occurred, for the most part, in the months from January to April, and in December.

In Class II., Order 1, Diathetic diseases, the large number of 64 is ascribed to cancer, which, nevertheless, is under that of the preceding year. In tubercular diseases (Order 2), attributed to phthisis are 267 deaths. The fatality of this disease varies but little in the different months, generally ranging between 20 and 29. In the present year a notable exception appears in the month of February, when but 10 deaths are registered.

In Class III., Local diseases, in the orders of diseases of the nervous system and of the organs of circulation, the numbers of both closely approximate to those of 1877. In diseases of the respiratory organs there are 433 registrations, an increase of 125, principally the result of bronchitis. In the remaining orders of this class there is nothing to be remarked.

In Class IV., Order 1, Developmental diseases of children, 35 deaths appear in addition. Seventy-eight deaths are included under premature birth, an increase of 40 above those of 1877. Ninety-three deaths are ascribed to teething, a decrease of 13.

Under Order 3, the deaths referred to old age are 159, an increase of 32. The highest ages reached are not beyond from 90 and 95, under which 7 deaths were registered. The deaths of old men exceeded those of old women by 15. In the higher ages, from 80 to 95, both men and women are numerically equal; of the former, 38 attaining to these ages; of the latter, 37.

In Order 4, Atrophy and Debility record 365 deaths. Of these 317 were of children under one year of age. Fatality from this cause stands first on the list in the present year, and in that of the ten years preceding. It finds the third place in the like return of the Registrar-General of England, being there preceded by, firstly, bronchitis; secondly, phthisis. In this province phthisis holds the third place, and bronchitis the sixth.

In Class V., Violent deaths, under accidents or negligence 195 deaths are registered, of which 160 are those of males, 35 those of females. From fracture and contusion are 101, those of males being 91; from drowning 50, those of males, 41; from burns and scalds and from poison the registrations are few—a total of 18, 11 of which were females.

The number of suicides is 18, 6 of which were committed in Adelaide. Two were those of females.

MARRIAGES.

The marriages celebrated during the year were 2,229. Such shows an increase of 227 above those of 1877.

The rate per 1,000 of the population of persons married is 18.9 (that of England, 17.1).

The increase in the number of persons married is seen most especially in the lower ages. Marriages by persons in the ages from 15 years and under 20 increased by 4 males and 145 females; from 20 and under 25 by 233 males and 141 females; from 25 and under 30 by 81 males.

Ages at Marriage.—The proportion of persons married per 1,000 of the population, at from 15 to 45 years, at the ages specified, is thus given:—

	Total.	Males.	Females.
15 and under 20	34.5	6.6	62.8
20 " 25	113.9	114.0	113.2
25 " 30	56.2	74.6	30.0
30 " 35	20.3	26.7	12.6
35 " 40	12.1	14.6	9.10
40 " 45	7.7	9.1	4.9

Of 4,598 persons, 2,068 were bachelors, 2,102 spinsters, 231 widowers, 197 widows.

In the ages 15 and under 20, there were 811 persons married, being at the rate of 17·6 per hundred of the whole number. The number of women married at these ages is 300 less than the number under 20 and 25 years of age. Of the 740 spinsters, 15 were married to widowers. Three women, each at the time of marriage, gave their age as 14 years.

Persons who married between the ages of 20 and 25 years numbered 2,165, which is at the rate of 47 per cent of the whole number. Of these, 1,122 were bachelors, 1,018 spinsters, 3 widowers, and 22 widows.

The proportion of persons married, 856, in the ages 25 and 30, to every hundred of the total married, is 18·6; of these, 584 were bachelors, 224 spinsters, 24 widowers, 24 widows.

The most advanced age at the time of marriage was that of a widower, 79 years.

Marriages celebrated in the quarters of the year amounted to 658 in the March quarter, 580 in the December, 536 in the June, 525 in the September. As regards the quarterly periods in which marriages have been celebrated during the last ten years, no great regularity prevails, or is one season invariably noticeable for the record of the larger or lesser numbers. In five years out of the ten from 1869, the greatest number of marriages were celebrated in the fourth quarter; in three years in the first quarter; in one year in the second; and also in one year in the third.

Signatures in Marriage Register.—The signatures by mark are 278—those of males, 117; of females, 161. Compared with the returns of the last year, the number is but three less. Such is not insignificant when the increase of 594 persons married in the present year is considered. The proportion of signatures by mark to the total number of persons married is 6·0 per cent. In the last year, the rate was 7·0 per cent. The rate for every hundred men is 5·1, for women 7·0. Of the 740 women married at the ages from 15 and under 20, about 6 per cent. were unable to write their names. This, in the present year, is a comparative disadvantage, as the rate for every hundred in 1877 was under 5. It may be expected that, now the schoolmaster is abroad, in each succeeding year the signatures by mark under this division of ages will regularly and rapidly decrease. In the next division of ages, that of persons under 25 years, there is a marked advantage over 1877. In that year, the percentage of signatures by mark was—of men, 5·2; of women 6·0. In the present year, it is found to be 3·7 of men; 4·6 of women. In the ages under 30 there is an improvement to the extent of 2 per cent. less in the signatures by mark, both of men and women.

I have, &c.

JOHN F. CLELAND,

Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages.
The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Births Registered in the Quarters of the Years 1869-78.

	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Quarter ended—										
March 31	1,626	1,723	1,653	1,730	1,602	1,745	1,723	1,893	1,978	2,230
June 30	1,729	1,758	1,818	1,860	1,842	2,068	2,020	2,154	2,182	2,369
September 30	1,907	1,915	1,861	1,917	1,993	2,042	1,901	2,204	2,373	2,460
December 31	1,714	1,625	1,750	1,598	1,670	1,841	1,764	1,973	2,107	2,223
Total	6,976	7,021	7,082	7,105	7,107	7,696	7,408	8,244	8,640	9,282

Deaths Registered in the Quarters of the Years 1869-78.

	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Quarter ended—										
March 31	545	831	629	818	762	745	1,354	906	1,030	1,088
June 30	619	728	652	826	653	805	1,175	834	874	1,001
September 30	485	447	490	624	612	665	828	910	592	771
December 31	562	538	607	628	604	1,219	779	870	739	819
Total	2,211	2,544	2,378	2,896	2,631	3,431	4,136	3,550	3,235	3,749

Marriages Celebrated in the Quarters of the Years 1869-78.

	1869.	1870.	1871.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.
Quarter ended—										
March 31	292	350	294	336	401	393	406	485	473	658
June 30	342	297	328	354	309	411	424	411	510	536
September 30	302	319	323	306	355	396	399	454	489	525
December 31	275	294	305	365	397	411	459	472	530	580
Total	1,211	1,260	1,250	1,361	1,562	1,611	1,688	1,852	2,002	2,299

Deaths (in each class) Registered in the Province in the Years 1869-78.

Class.	1869.		1870.		1871.		1872.		1873.		1874.		1875.		1876.		1877.		1878.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
All causes	1,283	978	1,373	1,171	1,352	1,026	1,594	1,302	1,481	1,150	1,912	1,522	2,218	1,914	1,983	1,567	1,740	1,495	2,081	1,668
Specified causes	1,261	916	1,361	1,157	1,330	1,020	1,580	1,291	1,466	1,139	1,896	1,510	2,204	1,907	1,972	1,562	1,735	1,490	2,067	1,663
I. ZYMOTIC DISEASES	263	223	292	299	305	300	454	411	304	266	584	470	641	645	463	434	388	343	461	411
II. CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES	148	127	162	148	150	141	167	142	170	140	186	204	216	180	240	221	213	204	240	245
III. LOCAL DISEASES	513	309	553	410	532	331	605	450	591	433	684	512	845	695	813	521	703	550	801	595
IV. DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES	232	226	245	271	237	225	237	257	288	274	338	298	377	357	322	337	299	360	384	373
V. VIOLENT DEATHS	105	31	109	29	106	23	117	31	113	26	104	26	125	30	134	49	132	33	181	39

Return showing the number of Persons married, at different ages, in the Province in the Year 1878.

	15 and under 20		25		30		35		40		45		50		55		60		65		70 and upwards.		Full.		Under.		Total.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Total.
Celebrated in Quarter ended—																													
March 31	21	216	322	299	164	65	72	20	27	16	12	7	9	7	6	4	6	1	2	1	1	—	16	18	—	4	658	658	1316
June 30	14	166	276	264	143	54	38	10	18	11	15	7	9	3	3	4	6	2	2	—	1	—	11	12	—	3	536	536	1072
September 30	20	160	250	244	136	58	48	24	28	12	16	6	7	6	3	2	5	4	3	—	2	—	7	8	—	1	525	525	1050
December 31	16	198	277	233	165	71	44	26	23	12	12	7	10	8	8	4	6	3	3	1	—	—	16	16	—	1	580	580	1160
Total	71	740	1125	1040	608	248	202	80	96	51	55	27	35	24	20	14	23	10	10	2	4	—	50	54	—	9	2299	2 99	4598
Widowers and Spinsters	—	15	3	46	21	22	27	19	20	8	24	4	7	4	2	1	9	—	2	1	2	—	6	3	—	—	123	123	246
Widowers and Widows.	—	—	—	3	3	8	4	12	13	18	20	19	20	15	15	12	15	9	8	1	2	—	8	11	—	—	108	108	216
Bachelors and Widows.	—	—	14	19	24	16	20	18	14	21	4	5	6	4	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	89	89	178
Signature by marks.....	4	50	42	48	25	18	13	13	10	8	5	5	5	8	4	4	6	4	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	320	320	640
																											117	161	278